

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A three-dimensional cell culture method comprising constructing a three-dimensional tissue with a permeable sheet by stacking cells flat-cultured on ~~[[a]] the~~ permeable sheet on other flat-cultured cells ~~together with said permeable sheet~~.

2. (Original) The three-dimensional cell culture method of claim 1 wherein the cultured cells are originated from any one of a solid organ, an epithelial tissue, or a muscular tissue.

3. (Original) The three-dimensional cell culture method of claim 2 wherein the cultured cells are originated from a liver.

4. (Original) The three-dimensional cell culture method of claim 3 wherein the cultured cells comprise primarily small hepatocytes.

5. (Previously Presented) The three-dimensional cell culture method of claim 3 wherein a bile canaliculus is formed in the three-dimensional tissue.

6. (Currently Amended) A three-dimensional tissue with a permeable sheet, constructed by stacking cells flat-cultured on ~~[[a]] the~~ permeable sheet on other flat-cultured cells ~~together with said permeable sheet~~.

7. (Original) The three-dimensional tissue of claim 6 wherein the cultured cells are originated from any one of a solid organ, an epithelial tissue, or a muscular tissue.

8. (Original) The three-dimensional tissue of claim 7 wherein the cultured cells are originated from a liver.

9. (Original) The three-dimensional tissue of claim 8 wherein the cultured cells comprise primarily small hepatocytes.

10. (Previously Presented) The three-dimensional tissue of claim 8 wherein a bile canaliculus is formed in said three-dimensional tissue.

11. (Previously Presented) An artificial organ constructed from the three-dimensional tissue of claim 6.

12. (Currently Amended) A cell culture method of flat-culturing cells on a permeable sheet comprising defining ~~[[the]]~~ a colony form of the cultured cells by controlling ~~[[the]]~~ a position of a pore in said permeable sheet.

13. (Original) A three-dimensional cell culture method comprising constructing a three-dimensional tissue by stacking cultured cells cultured by the cell culture method of claim 12 on other flat-cultured cells together with the permeable sheet.

14. (Currently Amended) A tissue transplantation method comprising transplanting the three-dimensional tissue of claim 6 into a living body of a ~~non-human~~ vertebrate.